

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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**American Express Credit Cards New Electronic Filing Payment Option**

**OLYMPIA**, Wash., Sept. 24, 2001— Beginning this month, many of the more than 10,000 Washington businesses that file their state excise tax returns electronically can choose to pay their taxes using American Express credit cards.

The charge card option was introduced at the request of businesses that asked for additional payment options said Agency Director Fred Kiga.

The charge card option joins electronic funds transfer and pay-by-check as payment alternatives for businesses who use Electronic Filing, or ELF. ELF allows businesses the convenience to file and pay their taxes directly over the Internet using secure, encrypted technology.

Taxpayers who choose to pay by credit card must pay a convenience fee to American Express and Official Payments Corporation, which process the transaction. The fee assessed varies depending upon the amount of the charge, but averages about 2.6 percent.

Kiga noted that the Department is interested in signing up other brands of credit cards as well, but American Express is currently the only vendor with which an agreement has been reached.

For more information on ELF and the new credit card payment option, please visit <http://dor.wa.gov/elf/elfcontent.asp>.

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